

Book and Tract Work.

ROBERT FREELAND of Toronto, Canada, said in a meeting: "I want to make these two practical statements as to the results of tract distribution that I have known of. Over thirty-one years ago, two young men published a little pamphlet of Gospel passages only, which was distributed. Some eight hundred thousand were printed in one place. I want to tell you of one conversion I know of. There was one man in Buffalo whom no clergyman ever went to see, but he got one of these tracts, and died trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ. Some one took some of them to Philadelphia fifteen years ago, and a revival broke out and three hundred were converted. A gentleman in Chicago was talking with an inquirer one night. He pointed him to Christ, handed him a tract and said: 'Read that.' Seven years after a young man met this man and said: 'Do you remember me?' 'No.' 'Well, I gave my heart to Christ after reading and praying over that tract you gave me.' Some time ago a man was sitting in a park about to commit suicide, and a young man gave him one of these tracts and he read in Isaiah 'Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.' He gave up his intention to commit suicide and became a Christian man."

I HAVE no doubt there are those who read the EVANGELIST, who have seen such conversions, or who have such experiences, why not let them be known? Send the facts to Ashland, or to me and let them go out and do others good. Human nature is wonderfully alike and what helps one will help the other.

SOME time ago I mentioned the fact of a man being turned from his wicked object by a little tract. See EVANGELIST No 48, page 11. Here is a copy of the little tract that done the work: LOOK TO JESUS WHEN TEMPTED, WHEN TROUBLED, WHEN DYING.—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3: 16.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Gal. 6: 7.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6: 23.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let

him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55: 7.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I John 1: 9.

"Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God! I come, I come!"

A CONVERT to Christianity in Japan, in delivering an address before a body of Christians recently, urged the scattering of tracts in Corea. As a matter of fact, all who love Christ desire others to become acquainted with him, and appreciate this method of introduction.

PLEASE remember that this column is not merely for a moment's entertainment, but for the purpose of calling your attention to the evidence, enlist your sympathy, stir up your desires, and have you co-operate in this work of scattering leaves from the tree of life for the healing of discouraged minds and broken hearts.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

Missionary News.

THE NATIONAL MISSION BOARD.

J. E. ROOP, PRESIDENT.

Some time ago an inquiry was made through the EVANGELIST concerning the National Board of Missions. I have waited to see whether the query would call forth any answer from outside sources, before making a reply. It seemed to me proper that an answer should come from those outside of the Mission Board, as it is to them we must look for the cause of its quietness.

The Board is just as much in existence now as it has been at any time, which means that it is an organization accomplishing nothing. To have a successful general mission work carried on there are several requisites. Chief among these is a central organization to superintend the work and money and men to carry it on. The first we have, the third is easily found among the able ministers of our church, but the second—

Since our organization, nearly three years ago, we have received ten dollars and eighty cents. This represents the total amount furnished by the church to carry on this work. It is impossible for us to do something with nothing, and the sooner the church learns this the better. Money is necessary. You cannot ask or expect an evangelist to do this work without receiving at least some pay. He can-

not live on good wishes, and the promises of a good man to pay do not come much nearer buying groceries, than do the promises of a bad man.

When Christ sent the seventy he told them that the laborer is worthy of his hire. Certainly no man more thoroughly deserves support than he who is carrying the invitation of Christ into the waste and desert places of earth. Yet the few pennies received seem to me to represent the interest taken by the Brethren church in the spread of the Gospel. It may be harsh judgment, but "by their fruits you shall know them." If it is desired that this organization shall be an *honorary one*, all that is necessary is to keep the same successful grip on the pocket book as heretofore. If the church expects to hear something of us excepting in convention, then furnish us with more motive power.

There is however, one thing that is working against a successful National Board of Missions, and that is our District Boards. There is the Pennsylvania Board, the Ohio Board, the Indiana Board, Illiokota Board, the Kanemorado Board, the California Board and possibly some that I have omitted. By the time the Brethren in the various districts have contributed to their own board, they do not feel called upon to do any thing for a national organization. We seem to be organized in a manner similar to the government under the Articles of confederation—having the appearance but neither the power nor the means. The District Boards are all right, but I do not know that as they are at present planned, they stand greatly in the way of the general work. Not that they occupy all the field, but that the church does not see beyond them to the great need of the main body. It may be all right that these things are as they are, but these are some of the reasons why, for the stillness, almost of death, that is over the national organization.

235 S. Campbell Ave., Chicago, Ill.

HOW VERY sweet to many workers are those little corners of the newspapers and magazines which describe their labors and successes; yet some who are doing what God will think a great deal more of at the last, never saw their names in print.—*Spurgeon*.

"It is a trifle," you say, "it is nothing." True, but it is nothing that will be everything to you; for a trifle that you prefer to the will of God is a trifle that will be your ruin.—*Fenelon*.

FOUR things indispose us for prayer—inordinate sadness, very high spirits, ill temper, and a carnal, worldly spirit.